

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03630 141212Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/051 W

-----141221Z 069357 /22

O 141110Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 940

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3630

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO LAHORE FROM KARACHI
APR 14 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE
CONFIDENTIAL KARACHI 1760

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, PINT
SUBJECT: DISPLACEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER

REF: LAHORE 0362

1. IT IS NOW VERY CLEAR THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS AN
ACTIVE RATHER THAN PASSIVE OR CAPTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE
PRESENT GROING FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS.
IT REMAINS THE CONSENSUS AMONG OBSERVERS HERE,
HOWEVER, THAT (A) THE ARMY HAS DEALT ITSELF A HAND AND
IS INSISTING THAT A POLITICAL SOLUTION BE FOUND SOON
(B) THE ARMY HAS DEMANDED THAT BHUTTO LIMIT THE RANGE
OF HIS POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES UNTIL A
POLITICAL SOLUTION CAN BE WORKED OUT (C) THE PNA WILL
REMAIN RECALCITRANT AND (D) ANY SOLUTION MUST INVOLVE
BHUTTO'S RESIGNATION.

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2. THE EARLIER CONSENSUS THAT THE PRIME MINISTERGS
RESIGNATION WAS IMMINENT HAS BEEN SHAKEN BY EVIDENCE
THAT HE MAINTAINS CONSIDERABLE AUTHORITY AND FREEDOM
OF MOVEMENT. (HE IS NOW REPORTED TO HAVE VISITED
LARKANA ON MONDAY AND TO HAVE DINED WITH HUSNA
SHAIKH IN KARACHI MONDAY EVENING.) UP UNTIL YESTERDAY
THE COMMON PREDICTION WAS THAT THE CRISIS WOULD BE

RESOLVED WITHIN 48 TO 72 HOURS. NOW, THOSE WHO ARE DISPOSED TO QUANTIFY ARE TALKING ABOUT A TIMEFRAME OF 14 DAYS. MOST CONTACTS STILL HOLD FIRMLY TO THE OPINION THAT THE ARMY IS PRESSING HARD FOR A SOLUTION THAT WILL ENABLE THEM TO AVOID TAKING OVER.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER IS SAID BY JOURNALISTIC SOURCES TO HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO HANG ON BY A PPP "CAUCUS" LED BY MUMTAZ BHUTTO AND PIRZADA, DESPITE A POSSIBLE INCLINATION ON HIS PART TO WITHDRAW. HE IS SAID TO BE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT RESISTANCE IN THE ARMY TO CONTINUED HARDLINE ACTION AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS AND EROSION IN THE MORALE, SUPPORT AND IMAGE OF THE SECURITY FORCES. REPORTEDLY HE HAS IN MIND A PLAN TO ROTATE THE POLICE AND THE TROOPS TO GIVE THEM A REST AND REMOVE THEM FROM THEIR INFECTIOUS DAILY CONTACT WITH THE DEMONSTRATORS.

4. THE VENUE OF WHATEVER POLITICAL MANEUVERING BETWEEN THE PPP AND PNA MAY BE GOING ON IS REMOTE FROM KARACHI. THEREFORE WE ARE UNABLE TO SPECULATE AT ANY LENGTH ON THE LIKELY OUTCOME. A CLEARCUT CONSENSUS AMONG OBSERVERS HAS NOT YET JELLED, ALTHOUGH CERTAIN GENERALLY AGREED OPINIONS HAVE BEEN CITED IN THE FOREGOING PARAGRAPHS. PRESUMABLY PNA STRATEGY IN THE STREETS CC KARACHI WILL PROVIDE CLUES TO OVERALLY PARTY STRATEGY. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO DEVINE AND WILL REPORT DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT AREA REGULARLY.

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5. AS A STARTER, UNCONFIRMED WORD IS NOW CIRCULATING THAT THE PNA PLANS MASSIVE ACTION IN KARACHI AND PERHAPS COUNTRYWIDE APRIL 15. PROCESSIONS APRIL13 WERE NUMEROUS, VERY LARGE AND IN SOME CASES VIOLENT. ONE OF OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEES REPORTS THAT PPP WORKERS IN ONE OF THEIR OFFICES IN NAZIMABAD FIRED ON A PNA PROCESSION WOUNDING SEVERAL PERSONS. THE ARMY WAS CALLED IN TO DISARM THE PPP WORKERS. THIS IS THE THIRD REPORTED INCIDENT OF PPP WORKERS FIRING ON THEIR ADVERSARIES IN RECENT DAYS.

6. IN THAT CONNECTION, THE LOCAL EMPLOYEE MENTIONED HAS BEEN TOLD BY PNA OFFICIALS IN NAZIMABAD THAT:
(A) BHUTTO'S SCHEDULED ADDRESS TO PPP OFFICIALS IN LAHORE TODAY WILL ASK THEIR OPINION AS TO WHETHER HE SHOULD CALL THE PARTY WORKERS INTO THE STREETS;
(B) 40 PPP MNAS, INCLUDING THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HAVE NOW QUIT THE PPP.
MOORE

BYROADE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PK, (BHUTTO, ZULFIKAR ALI)
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